

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03625 301613Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
-----010027 301908Z /44

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7107
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3625

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV PDIP AO US
SUBJ: ANGOLA: WELFARE OF IMPRISONED U.S. MERCENARIES

1. DURING COURSE OF VISIT TO ANGOLA BY CONTACT GROUP ON
NAMIBIA, MCHENRY AND PETTERSON ALONG WITH
MURRAY (UK) MET
WITH ITALIA AMBASSADOR VECCHI TO DISCUSS WELFARE OF SEVEN
BRITISH AND TWO U.S. CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN ANGOLA BECAUSE
OF MERCENARY ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION, MURRAY INQUIRED ABOUT
A UK CITIZEN EMPLOYED BY FRENCH FIRM ON RUASANA DAM PROJECT
AND CAPTURED WHEN HE STRAYED TO ANGOLA SIDE OF BORDER.

2. VECCHI SAID THAT HE HAD SENT TWO NOTES VERBALE TO
ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO AS FOLLOW
UP TO EARLIER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO. JURGE HAD BEEN
FORTHCOMING AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO A PRISON VISIT BY
THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS, WHICH IN
REVOLUTIONARY ANGOLA IS NOW CALLED FAMILY DAY. VECCHI HAD
NOT PRESSED THE MATTER SUBSEQUENTLY BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN
IN ROME FOR THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE ANGOLAN PM. HE
WOULD NOW SEEK A RESPONSE, WHICH HE ANTICIPATED WOULD BE
FAVORABLE BUT NOT UNTIL AFTER THE MPLA PARTY CONGRESS,
WHICH ENDS DECEMBER 14.

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3. LATER, DURING A DISCUSSION WITH JORGE, AMBASSADOR
MCHENRY INQUIRED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF "TWO OF OUR WAYWARD
BOYS." WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT THE U.S. DID NOT CONDONE
MERCENARY ACTIVITY, WE NEVERTHELESS HAD A RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE WELFARE OF U.S. CITIZENS. HE ADDED THAT WE WERE
PLEASED WITH REPORTS WE HAD RECEIVED THAT THE TWO MEN WERE

WELL-TREATED; HOWEVER, WE WERE CONCERNED THAT THE MEN HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEND OR RECEIVE MAIL AND PACKAGES.

4. JORGE SAID THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD OUR INQUIRY WAS BASED ON HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AND THAT FOR SIMILAR REASONS HE WOULD INQUIRE WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND SEEK TO CHANGE THE SITUATION FOR THE BETTER. THE HEAD OF WESTERN COUNTRIES DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, SAID THAT LETTERS AND PACKAGES SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE SENT BY IMMEDIATE FAMILIES SINCE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES WERE NOT ABLE TO HANDLE LARGER VOLUME. LOW

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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